

## IN THE CLAIMS

22. (currently amended) A digital contents distribution method to distribute digital content via a network, comprising the steps of:

selecting digital contents corresponding to each of a plurality of stores selling said digital contents, when said selected digital contents is not saved in said stores, and generating a distribution schedule for controlling distribution of said digital contents corresponding to said stores;

instructing distribution of said digital contents to each of said stores according to said distribution schedule ~~to each of said stores~~; and

b<sup>1</sup> selling, at each of said stores, a particular digital content selected by a customer from said distributed digital contents.

23. (currently amended) A digital contents distribution method to distribute digital content via a network, comprising the steps of:

when digital contents selected by a customer is not saved in a vending device, transmitting a distribution request for said selected digital contents from said ~~pending vending~~ device to a distribution management device;

~~upon transmitting~~ in response to said distribution request of said selected digital contents transmitted from said distribution management device to a content database device, distributing to said distribution management device said selected digital contents ~~transmitted~~ from said content database device based on said distribution request;

transmitting to said vending device said selected digital contents corresponding to said distribution request ~~by receiving said distribution request transmitted from said distribution management device~~; and

selling, at said vending device, said selected ~~the~~ digital contents distributed from said distribution management device.

24. (currently amended) A digital contents distribution method in accordance with claim 22, further comprising the steps of:

generating a digital ~~contents~~content by digitizing an original ~~contents~~ content and transmitting to a recognition device a request for confirmation of contents-content of said digital ~~contents~~content;

executing, in response to said request, confirmation of contents for said content of said digital contents-content by ~~receiving a request of said confirmation of contents~~ determining whether said content of said digital content has been generated without error and transmitting ~~to a digitizing device a message indicating to indicate whether or not the contents thereof are~~ said content is to be recognized based on said determination; and

receiving said message ~~from said recognition device, and indicating to accumulate the accumulating~~ said content of said digital contents-content if said content of said digital content has been recognized by said recognition device.

25. (currently amended) A digital contents distribution method to distribute digital contents via a network, comprising the steps of:

collecting from a plurality of stores, sales information of digital contents sold, ~~to~~ via said stores, ~~customer~~ customers;

calculating numbers of each of said digital contents sold via said stores ~~during~~ among a predetermined period based on said collected sales information ~~of~~ said predetermined period;

calculating a total number of ~~sold~~ said digital contents sold for each ~~digitized~~ digital contents holder that licenses ~~having a license for said digital contents~~ to said stores; and

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26. (currently amended) A digital contents distribution system to distribute digital content via a network, comprising:

a distribution control section for selecting digital contents corresponding to each of a plurality of ~~store~~ stores selling said digital contents, when said selected digital contents is not saved in said stores, generating a distribution schedule for controlling distribution of said digital contents corresponding said stores, and instructing distribution of said digital contents to each of said stores according to said distribution schedule ~~to each of said stores~~; and

a sales section for selling, at each of said stores, a particular digital content selected by a customer from said distributed digital contents.

27. (currently amended) A digital contents distribution system to distribute digital content via a network, comprising:

a processing section for collecting from a plurality of stores, sales information of digital contents sold to ~~a customer~~ customers via said stores; and

a license fee section for calculating numbers of each of said digital contents sold ~~among~~ via said stores during a predetermined period based on said collected sales information ~~of said predetermined period~~, and calculating a total number of ~~sold~~ said digital contents sold for each digital contents holder ~~having~~ license for said that licenses digital contents to said stores, and sending ~~for~~ to said digital contents holder a fee corresponding to the total number of ~~sold~~ said digital contents sold via said stores ~~calculated~~ for each of digital contents holder.

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28. (currently amended) A digital contents distribution system to distribute digital content via a network, comprising:

a distribution requesting section for, when digital contents selected by a customer is not saved in a vending device, transmitting a distribution request for said selected digital contents from said vending device to a distribution management device;

a distribution request relay section ~~for upon transmitting~~, in response to said distribution request for said selected digital contents transmitted from said distribution management device to a content database device, distributing to said distribution management device said selected digital contents ~~transmitted~~ from said content database device based on said distribution request;

a requested content distribution section for transmitting to said vending device said selected digital contents corresponding to said distribution request ~~by receiving said distribution request transmitted~~ from said distribution management device; and

a sales section for selling, at said vending device, said selected ~~the~~ digital contents distributed from said distribution management device.

29. (currently amended) A computer readable medium storing a program for executing a digital contents distribution method to distribute digital content via a network, said method comprising the steps of:

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selecting digital contents corresponding to each of a plurality of stores selling said digital contents, when said selected digital contents is not saved in said stores, and generating a distribution schedule for controlling distribution of said digital contents corresponding to said stores;

instructing distribution of said digital contents to each of said stores according to said distribution schedule ~~to each of said stores~~; and

selling, at each of said stores, a particular digital content selected by a customer from said distributed digital contents.

30. (currently amended) A computer readable medium storing a program for distributing digital contents via a network, said program when executed causes a computer to perform the steps of:

collecting from a plurality of stores, sales information of digital contents sold to ~~a customer~~ customers via said stores;

calculating numbers of each of said digital contents sold ~~during~~ via said stores during a predetermined period based on said collected sales information ~~of said predetermined period~~;

calculating a total number of ~~sold~~ said digital contents sold for each digital contents holder that licenses ~~having a license for said~~ digital contents to said stores; and

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sending ~~for~~ to said digital contents holder a fee corresponding to a the total number of ~~sold~~ said digital contents ~~calculated~~ sold via said stores for each of digital contents holder.

31. (currently amended) A computer readable medium storing a program for distributing digital contents via a network, said program when executed causes a computer to perform the steps of:

when digital contents selected by a customer is not saved in a vending device, transmitting a distribution request for said selected digital contents from said vending device to a distribution management device;

~~upon transmitting~~ in response to said distribution request for said selected digital contents transmitted from said distribution management device to a content database device, distributing to said distribution management device said selected digital contents ~~transmitted~~ from said content database device based on said distribution request;

transmitting to said vending device said selected digital contents  
corresponding to said distribution request ~~by receiving said distribution request~~  
~~transmitted from said distribution management device~~; and  
selling, at said vending device, said selected ~~the~~ digital contents  
distributed from said distribution management device.

32. (currently amended) A program file storing a program for distributing a  
digital contents via a network, said program when executed causes a computer to  
perform the steps of:

selecting digital contents corresponding to each of a plurality of stores  
selling said digital contents, when said selected digital contents is not saved in said  
stores, and generating a distribution schedule for controlling distribution of said  
digital contents corresponding to said stores;

instructing distribution of said digital contents to each of said stores  
according to said distribution schedule ~~to each of said stores~~; and

selling, at each of said stores, a particular digital content selected by a  
customer from said distributed digital contents.